

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 CG-00 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-10 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04

JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /235 W

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R 251235Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 741

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: GROUP OF FIVE MEETING ON SEABEDS JULY 9

REF: GENEVA 3477 (NOTAL)

1. GROUP OF FIVE (US, USSR, JAPAN, UK, FRANCE) MET JULY 9 AT US MISSION TO DISCUSS COORDINATION AND TACTICS IN WORKING GROUP (WG) OF SUBCOMMITTEE I NEGOTIATIONS ON SEABEDS. MAJOR DISCUSSION REVOLVED AROUND HOW TO EFFECTIVELY USE COMPARATIVE TABLE PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT SO AS TO EXPEDITE WORK OF WG AND AVOID CONTENTIOUS AND PROLONGED DEBATE.

THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION OF THE COMMENTS OF SUBCOMMITTEE I CHAIRMAN ENGO MADE AT JULY 9 SESSION OF SUBCMTE I, REPORTED REFTEL.

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2. GROUP AGREED THAT MAJOR OBJECTIVE IN USING COMPARATIVE TABLE WAS TO AVOID ULTIMATE INCLUSION OF ARTICLE XXVIII (POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF AUTHORITY) IN WG PRODUCT. USSR (ROMANOV) PREFERRED TO BEGIN DRAFTING IMMEDIATELY AND SUGGESTED TACTIC OF PROPOSING THAT WG COMMENCE WORK ON POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL WHILE REALIZING THAT THIS WOULD RESULT IN PRESSURE TO BEGIN WITH ASSEMBLY TO WHICH USSR COULD THEN CONCEDE. US (OXMAN) EXPLAINED US PREFERENCE FOR WG'S GOING THROUGH EACH FUNCTIONAL HEADING IN COMPARATIVE TABLE AND DETERMINING UNDER WHICH ORGAN IT SHOULD BE PLACED. HE FELT (AND FRANCE, JAPAN AND UK GENERALLY AGREED) THAT IF WG BEGAN DRAFTING IMMEDIATELY ON ITEMS SUCH AS ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS IT WOULD BECOME BOGGED DOWN AND NOT HAVE TIME THIS SESSION TO CONCENTRATE ON MORE CRITICAL ISSUES SUCH AS DIRECT EXPLOITATION BY AUTHORITY AND PRODUCTION CONTROLS.

3. USSR REP WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS PROCEDURE AND IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT HE SOUGHT TO AVOID LENGTHY DEBATE ON WHETHER ASSEMBLY WAS SUPREME ORGAN OF AUTHORITY SINCE USSR WOULD HAVE TO TAKE STRONG STAND IN OPPOSITION TO THIS CONCEPT. HE ALSO STATED THAT USSR WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF WG BEGAN PROMPTLY TO DRAFT TEXTS ON MORE DIFFICULT ISSUES, WHILE OTHERS IN GROUP FELT THAT WG SHOULD AT LEAST DISCUSS OTHER POWERS AND FUNCTIONS BEFORE DRAFTING ALTERNATIVE TEXTS FOR VARIOUS PROPOSED EXPLOITATION SYSTEMS. REST OF GROUP ALSO PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL FOLLOWING WEEK TO BEGIN DRAFTING SINCE WG I CHAIRMAN PINTO WOULD THEN HAVE MORE TIME TO CONVENE INFORMAL DRAFTING SESSIONS.

4. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF REMARKS OF SUBCOMTE I CHAIRMAN ENGO. FRENCH REP SAID TIME NOT RIPE FOR TYPE OF NEGOTIATION ENGO ADVOCATES AND FOR MAJOR POLITICAL DECISIONS HE CONTEMPLATES AS THESE DECISIONS WILL INVOLVE MORE THAN SEABEDS ISSUES. SOVIET REP SUGGESTED THAT ONE MEMBER OF GROUP OF FIVE INDICATE TO ENGO CONCERN WITH ENGO'S PROPOSAL ON BEHALF OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMBERS OF GROUP ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THAT NAMES OF GROUP NEED NOT BE REVEALED. FRENCH REP STRESSED THAT ANY SUCH APPROACH WOULD HAVE TO BE BY FIVE REPS SEPARATELY AND APPEARED CONCERNED THAT CONFIDENTIALITY OF GROUP OF FIVE BE MAINTAINED. UK REP SAID UK NOT PREPARED TO BEGIN POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS. FRENCH AND UK REPS STATED THAT THEY DID NOT TAKE ENGO REMARKS TOO SERIOUSLY AS HE HAD MADE COMMENTS IN

SIMILAR VEIN DURING SPRING SEABED SESSION. IT WAS
AGREED TO DISCUSS ENGO'S STATEMENT IN GREATER DETAIL
AT NEXT MEETING.

5.THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF HOW TO AVOID
CONFLICT OF SCHEDULES BETWEEN LOS CONFERENCE IN
APRIL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION MEETING, IN
VIEW OF FACT THAT A NUMBER OF KEY DELEGATES WOULD
WANT TO ATTEND BOTH.

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